

HIS  
MAJESTIES  
Most Gracious  
MESSAGE,

MAY the 12<sup>th</sup>. from HOLDENBY,  
To the LORDS and COMMONS in the  
Parliament of ENGLAND, Assembled at  
WESTMINSTER,  
And the Commissioners of the Parliament  
of SCOTLAND. With his Answer  
to the Propositions.



LONDON, Printed for RICHARD ROYSTON. 1647.

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MR. J. H. H. H.

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**HIS MAJESTIES** most gracious Message  
from **HOLDENBY**, May 12. 1647.

**C. R.**



Sthe daily expectation of the comming of the Propositions hath made his Majesty this long time to forbear giving his Answer unto them, so the appearance of their sending being no more for any thing he can heare, then it was at his first comming hither, notwithstanding that the Earle of *Londerdale* hath been at *London* above these 10 dayes, ( whose not comming was said to be the onely stop ) hath caused his Majesty thus to anticipate their comming to him, and yet considering his Condition, that his Servants are denied accessse to him, all but very few, and those by appointment, not his owne Election, and that it is declared a crime for any but the Commissioners, or such who are particularly permitted by them, to converse with his Majestie, or that any Letters should be given to, or received from him, may hee not truly say, that he is not in case fit to make Concessions, or give Answers, since he is not master of those ordinary Actions which are the undoubted Rights of any free-borne man, how meane soever his birth be? And certainly hee would still be silent as to this subject, untill his Condition were much mended, did he not preferre such a right understanding betwixt Him and his Parliaments of both Kingdomes, which may make a firme and lasting Peace in all His Dominions, before any particular of his owne or any earthly blessing: and therefore His Majesty hath diligently imployed his utmost indeavours for divers moneths past, so to



informe His Understanding, and satisfie His Conscience; that he might be able to give such Answers to the Propositions, as would be most agreeable to His Parliaments; but He ingenuously professes, that notwithstanding all the paines that He hath taken therein, the nature of some of them appears such unto him, that without disclaiming that Reason which God hath given him to judge by for the good of Him and His People, and without putting the greatest violence upon His owne Conscience, Hee cannot give His consent to all of them. Yet His Majestie (that it may appeare to all the World how desirous He is to give full satisfaction) hath thought fit hereby to expresse His readinesse to grant what he may, and His willingnesse to receive from them, and that personally if His two Houses at *Westminster* shall approve thereof, such further Information in the rest as may best convince His judgement, and satisfie those doubts which are not yet cleer unto him, desiring them also to consider that if His Majestie intended to winde himselfe out of these troubles by indirect meanes, were it not easie for him now readily to consent to what hath or shall bee proposed unto him, and afterwards chuse his time to breake all, alledging, that forc't concessions are not to be kept, surely he might, and not incurre a hard censure from some indifferent men. But maxims in this kinde are not the guides of His Majesties actions, for hee freely and cleerly avows, that he holds it unlawful for any man, and most base in a King to recede from his promises for having been obtained by force or under restraint; wherefore his Majesty not onely rejecting those acts which he esteems unworthy of him, but even passing by that which he might well insist upon a point of honour, in respect of his present condition, thus answers the first Proposition. That upon his Majesties comming to *London*, hee will heartily joyne in all that shall concerne the honour of his two Kingdomes or the Assembly of the States of *Scotland*.

*land*, or of the Commissioners or Deputies of either Kingdome, particularly in those things which are desired in that Proposition, upon confidence that all of them respectively with the same tenderesse will look upon those things which concerne his Majesties honour.

In answer to all the Propositions concerning Religion, His Majestie proposeth, that he will confirme the Presbyteriall Government, the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster*, and the Directory, for three yeares, being the time set downe by the two Houses, so that His Majestie and His Household be not hindred from that forme of Gods Service which they formerly have; And also, that a free consultation & debate be had with the Divines at *Westminster* (twentie of His Majesties nomination being added unto them) whereby it may be determined by His Majestie and the two Houses, how the Church shall be governed after the said three yeares or sooner, if differences may be agreed. Touching the Covenant, His Majestie is not yet therein satisfied, and desires to respire His particular answer thereunto untill His comming to *London*, because it being a matter of conscience he cannot give a resolution therein till he may be assisted with the advice of some of His own Chaplains (which hath hitherto bin denied Him) & such other Divines as shall be most proper to informe Him therein; and then He will make clearely appeare, both His zeale to the Protestant profession, and the Union of these two Kingdomes, which he conceives to be the maine drift of this Covenant. To the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Propositions, His Majestie will consent. To the 9<sup>th</sup> His Majestie doubts not but to give good satisfaction when he shall be particularly informed how the said penalties shall be levied and disposed of. To the 10<sup>th</sup> His Majesties answer is, That he hath beene alwayes ready to prevent the practices of Papists, and therefore is content to passe an Act of Parliament for that purpose; And also, that the Lawes against them be duly executed. His

Majestie will give His consent to the Act for the due obser-  
 vation of the Lords Day, for the suppressing of Innovati-  
 ons, and those concerning the Preaching of Gods Word,  
 and touching Non-Residence and Pluralities, and His Maje-  
 stie will yeeld to such Act or Acts as shall be requisite to  
 rayse moneyes for the payment and satisfying all publique  
 Debts, expecting also that his will be therein included. As to  
 the Proposition touching the Militia, though his Majestie  
 cannot consent unto it *in terminis* as it is proposed, because  
 thereby he conceives, hee wholly parts with the power of  
 the Sword entrusted to him by God and the Lawes of the  
 Land, for the protection and government of his people,  
 thereby at once devesting himselfe, and dis-inheriting his Po-  
 steritie of that right and prerogative of the Crowne which  
 is absolutely necessary to the Kingly Office, and so weaken  
 Monarchy in this Kingdome, that little more then the name  
 and shadow of it will remaine: yet if it be onely securitie for  
 the preservation of the peace of this Kingdome, after the un-  
 happy troubles, and the due performance of all the agree-  
 ments which are now to be concluded, which is desired,  
 (which his Majestie alwayes understood to be the case, and  
 hopes that herein he is not mistaken) his Majestie will give  
 abundant satisfaction, to which end he is willing by Act of  
 Parliament, That the whole power of the Militia, both by  
 Sea and Land for the space of tenne yeares bee in the hands  
 of such persons as the two Houses shall nominate, giving  
 them power during the said terme to change the said per-  
 sons, and substitute others in their places at pleasure, and af-  
 terwards to returne to the proper channell againe, as it was  
 in the times of Queene *Elizabeth* and King *James* of blessed  
 memory. And now his Majestie conjures his two Houses of  
 Parliament, as they are Englishmen and lovers of Peace, by  
 the dutie they owe to his Majestie their King, and by the  
 bowells of compassion they have to their fellow Subjects,  
 that



that they will accept of this his Majesties offer, whereby the joyfull newes of Peace may be restored to this languishing Kingdome. His Majestie will grant the like to the Kingdome of *Scotland* if it bee desired, and agree to all things that are propounded touching the conserving of peace betwixt the two Kingdomes.

Touching *Ireland* (other things being agreed) His Majestie will give satisfaction therein. As to the mutuall Declarations proposed to be established in both Kingdomes by Act of Parliament, And the Modifications, Qualifications, and Branches which follow in the Propositions, His Majesty onely professes, that He doth not sufficiently understand, nor is able to reconcile many things contained in them; but this He well knoweth, That a general Act of Oblivion is the best Bond of Peace; and that after intestine Troubles, the wisdom of this and other Kingdomes hath usually and happily in all ages granted generall Pardons, whereby the numerous discontentments of many Persons and Families otherwise exposed to ruine, might not become seed to new disorders, or seedes to future troubles. His Majesty therefore desires, that his two Houses of Parliament would seriously descend into these considerations, and likewise tenderly look upon his Condition herein, and the perpetual dishonour that must cleave to him, if He shall thus abandon so many persons of Condition and Fortune that have ingaged themselves with and for Him, out of a sense of Duty, and propounds as a very acceptable testimony of their affection to him, That a generall Act of Oblivion and free Pardon be forthwith passed by Act of Parliament. Touching the new great Seal, His Majesty is very willing to confirme both it and all the Acts done by vertue thereof untill this present time, so that it be not thereby pressed to make voyd those Acts of his done by vertue of his great Seale, which in honour and justice he is obliged to maintaine; And that the future Government there-

of may be in his Majesty, according to the due course of Law. Concerning the Officers mentioned in the 19. Article, His Majesty when he shall come to *Westminster* will gratifie his Parliament all that possibly he may, without destroying the alterations which are necessary for the Crown. His Majesty will willingly consent to the Act for the confirmation of the Priviledges and Customes of the City of *London*, and all that is mentioned in the Propositions for their particular advantage. And now that His Majesty hath thus far indeavoured to comply with the desires of his two Houses of Parliament, to the end that this agreement may be firme and lasting, without the least face or question of restraint to blemish the same, his Majesty earnestly desires presently to bee admitted to his Parliament at *Westminster*, with that Honour which is due to their Sovereigne, there solemnly to confirme the same, and legally to passe the Acts before mentioned, and to give and receive as well satisfaction in all the remaining particulars, as likewise such other pledges of mutuall love, trust, and confidence as shall most concerne the good of him, and his people; upon which happy agreement, his Majesty will dispatch his Directions to the Prince his Son, to returne immediately to him, and will undertake for his ready obedience thereunto.

*For the Speaker of the Lords House (pro tempore) to be communicated to the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of England at Westminster, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland,*

**F. I. N. I. S.**